









# Hetty Green

And Her Church Mortgages  
A Criticism by Josephine K. Henry

One of the most eminent lawyers of the State of Illinois sends me the following from the dirt to save my face, and asks me to answer the Rev. gentleman through the Blade.

HETTY GREEN SCORED  
BY REV. F. E. HOPKINS

Congregational Minister Criticizes the Richest Woman in World for Foreclosing Mortgage on Fifth Presby. terian Church.

Hetty Green was scored last evening by Rev. Frederick E. Hopkins from the pulpit of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, Harvard avenue and Sixty-fourth street, for her action in foreclosing the mortgage on the Fifth Presbyterian Church. He chose for the subject of his sermon, "Is the Church a Failure or the Difference Between Hetty Green and Jesus' Friends, Mary and Martha."

"Poor Hetty Green, God bless her dear old heart," began the pastor in referring to the mortgage. "The last time I saw her she was limping down Broadway through the dirt to save my face, and she had a little black satchel in her hand, in which she says she carries the sandwich which constitutes her meal. She says the church which does so for her action is no good. This may be so, but it is not right for her to say it in view of what the church has done for womanhood. What this richest woman of the world should have done, now that she is tottering on the brink of the grave, would have been to telegraph her attorneys in Chicago to cancel the mortgage on the church and let the congregation sing 'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.'"

Mrs. Green should remember that Christianity has done more for women than any other agency in the world. What was woman before the era of Christ? A slave. She was the feet and hands of her master, father, brother—ruled on him, fed him and if there was anything left she and she does get it. Christianity changed the entire relation of man and woman. Who were the best friends of Jesus? Mary and Martha. He put the stamp of approval upon womanhood until the fairest flower of the world today is Christian womanhood. The very last person in the world today to say a thing against the church should be a woman, for two-thirds of the church is composed of women. In spite of all forces combined against Christianity, the church is the most successful institution in the world today."

The text of Rev. Hopkins "Is the Church a Failure, or the Difference Between Hetty Green and Jesus' Friends, Mary and Martha" was answered just one way. Yes, the church is a failure, and yet for the deluded Marys and Marthas it would have to go out of business, and it seems that the Fifth Presbyterian church has had to do that very thing because it had not enough Mary and Marthas to come to the rescue and because it ran up against a Hetty Green. Nine churches in ten would have their mortgages foreclosed by their Marys and Marthas were not kept on the move, getting money by hook and crook, to keep the ship of Zion afloat. But when they no longer get one look stopped in this old craft, than a bigger ship comes in another place. It is generally the case that the mortgage is the biggest thing about the church as in this Chicago case.

Women have done everything under the sun to raise money for the church, from giving swell dinners, to scrubbing the floor of the "meeting house," and from singing an Oratorio, to giving amateur shows, playing progressive eulogie, or dancing the Kan-kans, and they have been held in line by the Mary and Martha sermon. It is the most valuable stock in "rade of the clergy in referring to the female congregations."

Rev. Hopkins describes Hetty Green as he last saw her walking on Broadway to save her face, carrying her sandwich. "It seems hardly credible that a preacher would preyate care, but I venture the assertion that this man never saw Hetty Green in his life, and would not know her from the gatepost if he should meet her. If Hetty Green was walking to save her face, and carrying her sandwich, she is more honorable than the clergy who ride on dead head, tithes and eat the meals prepared by women who have roasted themselves over hot stoves to cater to their preachers. If there had been more Marys in the church, and fewer Marthas there would have been fewer tears and more facts for the preachers."

Rev. Hopkins says that Hetty Green should have canceled that church mortgage and let the congregation sing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." If Hetty Green had paid the church debt we can't see why the thanks and praise should be rendered to God. Hetty is no doubt a rich woman but let us remember that "the church is the Lord and the fullness thereof."

It seems strange that the Lord with his resources should be under the shelter of his houses to cover the shepherds' houses. But the Lord knows

the financial and spiritual condition of His Kingdom on earth, and if He should begin paying church mortgages He knows it would bankrupt the universe, so He just lets the preachers and the women attend to the finances, and a time of it they have. Men have sworn off from being church beggars, so every thing of the feminine gender is misused in to raise money for the church.

Here is a case recorded in the same paper as Rev. Hopkins' sermon:

Hens to Help Pay Church Debt. The hens of Little Utica, a community about five miles from bald winville, N. Y., are going to work Sunday this year to pay off a church debt. Little Utica has one church, and it is desperately in need of money. It is in a farming community, and all the church members are farmers. At its last meeting one of the congregationalists suggested that each member should contribute all the eggs laid by the hens on Sunday during the next year and give the receipts to the church. Everybody agreed, and the hens will begin next week.

They don't even give the hens a chance to keep the Sabbath day holy.

"Hetty Green says that the church that does not meet its obligations is no good. It is not a church, and it never has been. I have proven that the churches that DO meet their obligations are well known. There is a great cry that is going up from the preachers just now, for the civil law, has been enacted by the law of the Church, to help them stay the tide of crime that threatens to submerge our country. They don't even give the hens a chance to keep the Sabbath day holy."

There is a good deal of that kind of talk being said today, and Rev. Hopkins would not have to go a stone's throw from his pulpit to find it. The land is overburdened with Christianity. Many women in all stations of life are not only washing the feet and hands of their masters, but they are often slaves of men whose brutal characters are not even recognized by the church. There are millions of women in Christendom who feel the money to feed their masters, and who wait on them like spaniels, and not a few of them are being used as tools of cruelty and brutality.

Rev. Hopkins says "before Christianity, after all woman's service if she was not a slave, she was a dog." He said it in a large circle of this kind of women today. He said it in a large circle of this kind of women today. He said it in a large circle of this kind of women today.

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## SEVERECE Marilla Ricker Heard From

ON THE SOCIAL EVIL IN THE LOS ANGELES EXPRESS.

Los Angeles, Feb. 17, To the Editor:—That prayers and song services are inadequate for the removal of the social evil should be apparent to any thoughtful mind; and yet these methods alone have been tried for the suppression of an evil as old as human history. Just at present we are having a moral outburst, attended with sentiment but no practical talk, in large quantities. Committees have addressed the city council and made requests that were characterized by nothing but emotion and indefiniteness, for while they wanted action taken in relation to the red light district, they did not know exactly what or how to do it.

Right here is where the trouble always has come in on the removal of the social evil. No one knows what or how to accomplish that; and all the acquired wisdom of the pulpit is insufficient, to formulate an effective remedy. There is not a nation on the globe that does not have its evil, and none but what always has had it; and yet many of these emotional, would-be regulators of public morals, think a city ordinance would suppress it. So while waiting for the council to act in a manner not yet formulated or defined, praying and singing are being tried as a remedy.

So given to reflection, the fact that cause and effect are inseparable. There is always a cause for everything, and this is sufficient to establish necessity, which has been denied by the pulpit speakers. Necessity is responsible for everything in existence, or nothing would exist in mind or matter, and to ignore or deny it is to act in a manner devoid to sense or reason. Says the irrepressible Kansas voter, "I would like to see the city council, 'I hope you will say a word to suppress this gross immoralities,' but she had no way to suggest beyond enforcing laws now in existence and which, as most people know, would simply scatter the evil and drive the unfortunates into lodging houses and localities where their presence and influence would intensify their power to produce trouble. No other result could possibly follow for these women must live and find a shelter somewhere, and no 'door of hope' yet exists, or ever will exist, unless the evil can be taken in and provided for."

It would be a tremendous undertaking for a charitably disposed people to provide for the hundreds of women driven by necessity into the red light district of this city, and if these people with good motives but ill informed, should take any action on right away, would do a little more calm and rational thinking they would be no anxious to do so. Existing conditions until results were more certain and apparent from their own attendance to the problem. To be considered in self-protection, and everybody wants to know how he can make a living. I was a great while showing these unfortunates how they can exist if they give up immediate the deplorable business into which they have been driven, will do more to solve the question under discussion than any other course. When the opportunity is open for all women to make a good living in an honorable and agreeable business, the social evil will come mighty near relieving its death blow, and not till then.

Socialism, which would give to everybody the opportunity to make a living by work and have the product of labor, is the only thing ever advocated that will destroy the social evil; and the socialism is being ridiculed as absurd and impractical by most people working for the social purity. No plan has been suggested or considered that equals socialism, and until something like this is given a trial, and the necessities of life are thereby assured to every woman, the social evil will be as long as the human race walks this earth.

CHANNANG SEVERECE.

HURRICANE SWEEPS CITY OF BUDAPEST. The following from the New York Sun speaks for itself: Budapest, Feb. 13.—A terrific hurricane swept across Hungary and did enormous damage. The roof was blown off St. Elizabeth's church, five hundred persons were killed and thousands were thrown to the ground and other works of art were shattered. The wind was a terrific and all-powerful God should wreck his own house and treat his saints in such a cruel manner is beyond all comprehension, for the Bible says "God takes care of His own."

In the Sunday School Times, March 23, 1903, appeared an article written by Samuel Sevel, Jr., grandson of Abraham Ward Beecher, stating that Mr. Beecher one night at his study in Brooklyn and that they talked and prayed together several hours, the topic on their minds being the terrible calamities of war. The article is very interesting and has been extensively quoted. Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley in an editorial in the Christian Advocate, February 12, takes issue with Mr. Sevel as to the correctness of the theory, which was told to him by his mother after his grandfather died. Mr. Buckley handles the subject with both gloves on, and "proves beyond reasonable doubt" that the "story" is a "hoax" on fact. That President Lincoln never left Washington for New York in 1862 is shown by the estimates of the time he was close to Mr. Lincoln in Washington, as it was not possible for him to make any moves, travel anywhere without his knowing it, and they assert that he never went to New York, or to any other place, at any time during his Presidential term. Dr. Buckley has spoiled a beautiful story, but he has performed the task in due course of truth.

Mr. Editor:—These Sunday School stories are all so long as no one is interested enough to read them, that is, that is how Lincoln was made to be "pious" were that a man is a complex machine, but Beecher had some horse sense—of his friends, a member of his church, who was a man at one time, pray for him. He looked all about and said the wind was in the wrong direction in rain. Buckley is a good old man, and he deserves great credit for setting this matter, but the "pious" fraud will continue to tell the story of Lincoln and Beecher wrestling in prayer. The most of the plan is the evidence that a lie will "stick to" it better than the truth told waveringly. I've seen a newspaper that says "Beecher" have inquired for me and also Harriet M. Clegg. I am much pleased to be misused, but a name like Joseph Henry and Harriet Clegg writes for, doesn't need much, no matter if the Editor writes for him. I have been particularly busy writing letters to the voters of New Hampshire. The Constitutional Convention held in my state in December passed a bill submitting to the people of the State the question of the right to vote, whether or not the right of suffrage should be extended to women. The bill was passed by a large majority, and will be a personal letter, I have written for the purpose of giving purposes the printed literature that is sent to reform him! So I have written a letter to say to the voters to give the "girls" a complete vote, and I have some supplementary vote will "fill the bill," let us hope it will in this case. New Hampshire is a great State. I've ten said if our hills were rolled out we should be as big as Texas. She had the first free public library in the world and keeps it open Sundays. She was the first state in New England to give school suffrage to women. From the dawn of her history she has loved freedom, the stirring story of which her brave sons told in the Revolution proves that and I am doing my level best to have her shed forever the great march of humanity and grant to her daughters equal, civil and political rights with the men. The election will be the 10th of March. I've but a few days for to go, but I am sure I shall be there that morning to tell you where I am and what I am doing. I hope to be in the city of the 11th of March that New Hampshire will go down in history as the first State in the galaxy of States, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and New Hampshire, but I am sure the wind is NOT in the right direction.

MARILLA M. RICKER, Pasadena, California.

TWO ILLUSTRIOUS LEADERS. To Editor of Blade:—In the course of one year's reading of the Blade I have read with growing astonishment and delight the eloquent articles from the facile pens of Mrs. Josephine K. Henry and Mrs. Harriet M. Clegg. Differing in style they are united in a burning desire to emancipate woman from the deplorable tradition of matrimonial servitude, that reeks with mouldy hardness of antiquity, and which has made the millions of legal blindness. A marriage contract to be just should be a contract to destroy that servitude. The obligations of one should be the duty of the other. The world is full of married couples, adulterers to a culprit is often the ecclesiastical mandate "when a man put a woman in the gallows of a State, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and New Hampshire, but I am sure the wind is NOT in the right direction."

MARILLA M. RICKER, Pasadena, California.

SOME OF THE MOST MATRIMONIAL MISFEASANCES to the world are the religious couples. To attempt to move the asperities of two steel files by rubbing one upon the other would be like curing religiously marital inequalities. I have never seen either Mrs. Henry or Mrs. Clegg do anything that blocks the trend of progress. In this direction as well as all other reforms, is ecclesiasticism. It has stood for ages, as a monstrosity a black spectre of murky, lurid, and superstitious. A storm of protest and denunciation, and a rage of ill-will, howling in the midst of the hostile-crocodile type. A maelstrom of vituperation and damnation. The priest, the monk, the nun, the hypocrite and the hypocrite. Those of us who have defied them have been weak enough to believe in their pretended powers, have been terrified in spite of health and wealth, and have forgone many pleasures to placate a swarm of locusts who eat the life of the olive or which they revel in sympathy. JNO. F. CLARKE, Arlington, Md.

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## OTTO WETTSTEIN La Grange, Ill.

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